



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MANAGEMENT
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312-454-0400
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December 13, 2011

Via First Class U.S. Mail

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 13 2012

Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. FD35087 (Sub-No. 8) Canadian National
Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation's
Acquisition of Control of the EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter pertains to the Village of Barrington's petition for additional mitigation efforts by the Canadian National Railway Company (CN), which in 2009 acquired the EJ&E-West Railway Company (EJ&E). By virtue of its enabling legislation, CMAP is required to consider the regional and intergovernmental impacts of proposed major developments, infrastructure investments, and major policies and actions by public and private entities on natural resources, neighboring communities, and residents.

CMAP clearly recognizes that the economic viability of northeastern Illinois is reliant upon its role as North America's rail freight hub. However, we had concerns about the limited scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the STB and the short timeframe that was used to analyze EJ&E operations prior to the acquisition. Our agency at that time stated that the EIS analysis was not nearly robust enough for us to accept as credible its assertions about EJ&E traffic.

Regarding mitigation, CMAP continues to believe that CN's mitigation commitments should address real community concerns about safety, noise, vibration, and traffic congestion, along with the quality of air, water, and other natural resources. Impacts to the Strategic Regional Arterial System (SRA) could be significant. Because the SRA network was designed to provide regional mobility, the additional delay caused by the proposed action should be mitigated.

Board Members
Gerald Bennett, Chair
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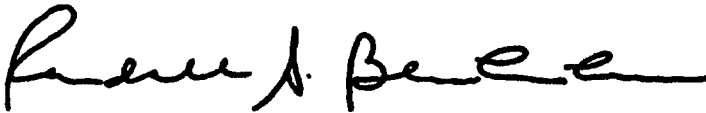
Executive Director
Randy Blankenhorn

Ms. Cynthia Brown
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Specifically, in its correspondence to the STB while the acquisition was still pending, CMAP identified the need for mitigation at a number of at-grade highway crossings on the SRA network, including at US 14 in Barrington, which is an at-grade, 4-lane + median, skewed angle crossing. This particular crossing is an important focus of the new Village of Barrington report, as is the very valid concern regarding the fairness of how costs for mitigation are being allocated between CN and the affected communities.

We encourage the STB to exercise its jurisdiction to look closely at the Village of Barrington's study. The mitigation factors raised in the Barrington report are deserving of the STB's most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Blankenhorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Executive Director

TG:RSB/stk

cc: The Honorable Karen Darch-Mayor, Village of Barrington
Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, D.C. (10 copies)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this 13th day of January, 2012, caused a true copy of a letter from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in support of Barrington's October 14, 2011 petition (STB Docket FD35087 - Sub-No 8) to be served by e-mail upon:

Cunningham, Paul A.
Harkins Cunningham LLP
1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3817

Dold, Honorable Robert
United States House Of Representatives
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Durbin, Honorable Richard J
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

Hirsh, David A
Harkins Cunningham
1700 K Street, Nw, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3817

Kirk, Honorable Mark
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Manzullo, Honorable Donald
U.S. House Of Representatives
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Roskam, Honorable Peter J.
Congress Of The United States
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1308

Streeter, Richard H.
5255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

Walsh, Honorable Joe
United States House Of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Weisner, Thomas J.
City Of Aurora
Mayors Office 44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507

Richardson, Kevin C.
Village Of Lake Barrington
23860 Old Barrington Road
Lake Barrington, IL 60010

Dawson, Eugene R.
Barrington Township
602 South Hough Street
Barrington, IL 60010

Leitner, Kathleen O.
Village Of Tower Lakes
400 N. Route 59
Tower Lakes, IL 60010

Schwantz, Mayor Jim
Village Of Palatine
200 E. Wood Street
Palatine, IL 60067

Munao, Frank J.
Village Of South Barrington
30 South Barrington Road
South Barrington, IL 60010

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne M. Devane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzanne" being more prominent and the last name "Devane" following in a similar style.

Suzanne M. Devane